



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

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Gunderson Northwest obtained excess rail from Hanford to expand its rail-car refurbishing business in Kennewick. The photo shows the rail being loaded for shipment to Gunderson; Reactors D and DR are in the background. In addition, Fluor

H a n f o r d
assisted the Tri-
Cities Asset Re-
investment Company in
obtaining more than
\$1 million in excess Hanford
assets, including lead bricks,
two gantry cranes, an x-ray
machine and lab equipment, for
sale or reuse to help diversify the
local economy.



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A grant from the Fluor Foundation helped fund marketing studies to be conducted by students at Washington State University–Tri-Cities. One study will be used to improve the market for a local software knowledge and content-management firm called WAYDAI, an acronym for What Are You Doing About It. The other study, for the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau, is focused on expanding the area's tourism market.



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One way HAMMER serves Hanford is through mock-ups that prepare workers for new or unfamiliar tasks or technology. In January, a mock-up helped prepare craft workers for a project in which they'll apply polyurea coating to the walls of tank-farm valve and pump pits. Here, painters receive direction from an instructor before returning to the confined space of the training prop. "What I liked about this mock-up was the opportunity to be involved in a job before it starts," said Ed Carter, business manager and chief steward, Local 1789 Painters Union. "At HAMMER, we were able to get safety issues resolved ahead of time and work extensively with a material we don't use on a daily basis, and that builds competence and confidence."

Final adjustments are made to a craft worker's personal protective equipment before he begins polyurea coating training at HAMMER. This kind of hands-on training keeps workers safe on the job. In late February, the 75-person HAMMER workforce itself was recognized for achieving a four-year-long record of 750,000 work hours without a lost-workday injury.

Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center



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HAMMER, as DOE's Beryllium Training Center of Excellence, hosted a workshop in February during which DOE sites showcased exemplary programs, shared lessons learned, developed partnerships among training professionals and beryllium-affected workers, and established a procedure



Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center



to identify training needs. Industrial Hygienist Bill Robinson introduced speakers via video teleconference (top photo), while Senior Training Specialist Lynn Gates facilitated a breakout session. Information from the workshop will be used to develop training that can serve as a model for emerging health and safety issues. Workshop results were shared at a subsequent Beryllium Rule Workshop in March in Washington, D.C.